

Singing to My Left Kidney – Synopsis

Created and performed by Ada Balon

Five years ago, actor-singer Ada Balon, was diagnosed with kidney cancer at a young age. During that harrowing experience, she learned a lot about human behaviour, how the health care system really works, and that it can't hurt to have a super cute doctor. In this unique interdisciplinary solo show, she uses classical vocal repertoire, comedy, and storytelling to paint a picture that isn't always pretty.

The play opens with Ada living her not-so-best life, working at a less than perfect job, and involved in a less than perfect relationship. Her real desire is to be on stage singing, and to be in love--living her best life. During a regular day at the office, she goes to the washroom and begins to notice a strange sensation during urination. She immediately contacts her doctor and unintentionally initiates a series of uncomfortable medical tests.

After receiving a cancer diagnosis, her entire family steps into gear attempting to fix the problem. Learning from a Toronto doctor that her particular case requires the expertise of an experienced specialist who happens to be in Hamilton, Ada sets on a journey to meet this doctor and ask him to be her surgeon. Dr. Kapoor immediately makes an impression and sparks a crush, not only from Ada but from both her parents. Dr. Kapoor takes a liking to Ada because he learns that she is a singer and wishes to protect her voice during treatment.

While in the hospital receiving treatment for her cancer, Ada has a drug-induced dream where she meets the personification of cancer. In her dream, cancer is a psychopathic femme fatale who taunts Ada and points out the pointlessness of Ada's existence. After some growing pains, Ada eventually conquers cancer and heals both emotionally and physically. She makes the unfortunate discovery, however, that even though she has been lucky enough to triumph over a horrible disease, her life still remains the same. She discovers that the work has only just begun. As she eases back into her life, she sings of her desire to feel normal again. The play is infused with classical vocal repertoire and physical comedy, giving unique vision and voice to a universal story about the disease that touches us all: Cancer.